

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 2, which has been canceled.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1 and 3-5 are will be pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hanford et al., U.S. 3,446,893 (“Hanford”), in view of Brennan et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,149,988 (“Brennan”), and/or Ota et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,021,186 (“Ota”).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 2. Claim 2 was not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hanford, Brennan, and/or Ota. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, would not be obvious over Hanford, Brennan, and/or Ota. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to claim 2 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable is rewritten in independent form.

Claim 2 has been canceled and thus the Examiner’s objection of claim 2 is moot.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Appln. No.: 10/657,125
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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